



FCTC COP7 Agenda

What it means for tobacco growers

35th UNITAB Congress - Sofia, 16-19 October, 2016

Why does the FCTC matters?

Leaf tobacco is often exported

Decisions taken abroad will have a huge importance on the leaf tobacco production of every country, especially for those who have ratified the FCTC

FCTC guides tobacco legislation world wide

Three main areas of concerns

1) Agricultural production

2) Trade

3) Contacts with government and regulators

Agricultural production - regulation of the content of tobacco products

Decisions will have to be made in New Delhi, India, on
November 7-12, 2016

at the 7th Conference of the Parties (COP7) to the FCTC
on

the content of the tobacco leaf

Current debate on leaf constituents

At this stage the FCTC is still looking for an appropriate **definition** of **constituents** (composition) of the leaf in order to **regulate** them in future

It must be pushed away any **definition** which **does not** allows farmers to work with the plant, **imposing too many limitations**

Leaf constituents - current FCTC proposed definitions (COP6 Moscow 2014)

Alternative definitions for considerations in relation to possible future work on the partial guidelines for implementation of articles 9&10 of the WHO FCTC (doc. FCTC/COP/6/13, annex 3)

Constituents means:

1. *substances found in tobacco*
2. *substances found in tobacco (contaminants are not part of the constituents)*
3. *endogenous substances found in tobacco leaf*
4. *natural substances found in tobacco leaf*
5. *endogenous substances found in processed tobacco*

... but anything else could be decided by the COP

Definition of leaf constituents (composition)

Why is it important ?

- ▶ Definition = first step towards regulation
 - ▶ Right definition of constituents is important
 - ▶ This could lead to regulation of heavy metals, nitrosamines, sugars, chemicals with some harmful effects for smokers, etc.
 - ▶ According to the definition chosen, regulation may also include pesticide residues
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- ➔ Practices to grow tobacco may become difficult for farmers
 - ➔ For the moment, FCTC has not defined leaf constituents
 - ➔ But FCTC seeks to regulate constituents before defining them

Leaf constituents (composition)

Some parallels for nicotine

Nicotine in tobacco = sweetness in sugar

Nicotine in tobacco = alcohol in wine, beer, or rakia

Nicotine in tobacco = Coca-Cola formula

Current debate on nicotine reduction

Question:

What is nicotine ?

Answer:

A natural substance contained in the leaf

(= a leaf constituent)

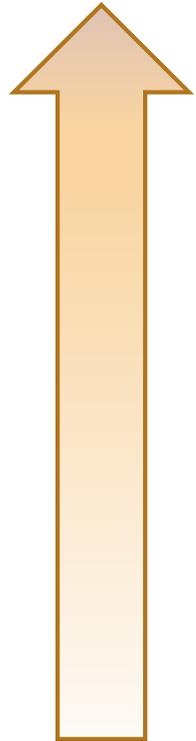
The “taste” of the cigarette

The reason why people smoke

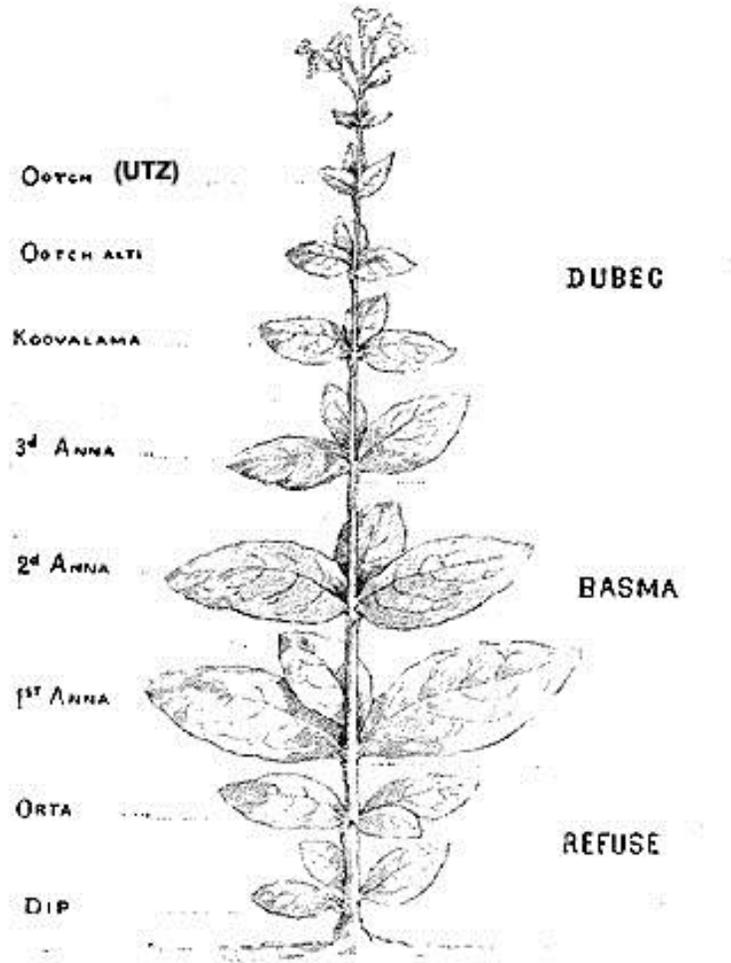
Where is nicotine in the plant?

Nicotine content

HIGH

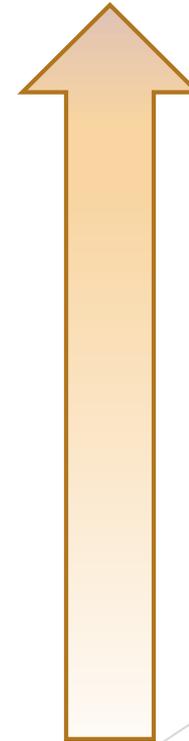


LOW



Leaf body

HIGH



LOW

Current debate on nicotine reduction

- ▶ **WHO PROPOSAL:** nicotine levels at or below 0.4 mg/cigarette (= less than 0.1% nicotine in the leaf)
- ▶ This is approximately one tenth of the lowest nicotine content a farmer would achieve through modifying several cultural practices using conventional varieties

In practice ...

- ▶ Nicotine content is different in different plant positions
- ▶ A legally imposed drastic reduction of nicotine content → impossible to sell all the leaves (higher stalk position leaves are always too rich in nicotine)
- ▶ A reduction in nicotine content forces the elimination of fertilizers → a considerable yield reduction
- ▶ A reduction in nicotine → less income for the farmer

In practice ...

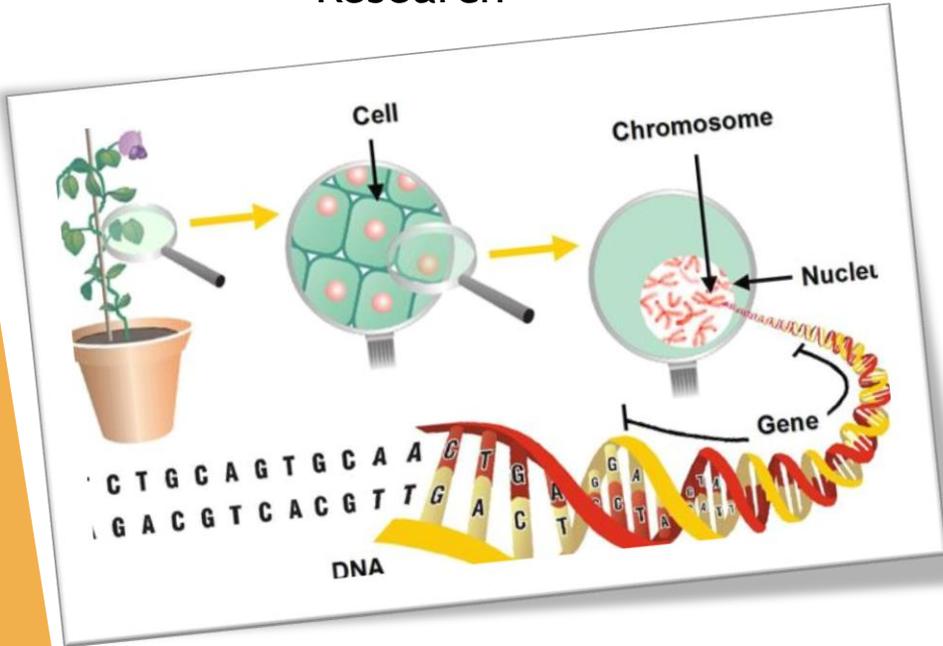
- ▶ People smoke because the nicotine in the leaf gives a feeling of mental well-being
- ▶ Tobacco leaf cannot be replaced by something else in tobacco based products
- ▶ Making people smoke less is a matter of education, not a matter of making farmers poorer

Target: <math><0.1\%</math> nicotine in re-dried tobacco

Modifying Cultural practices



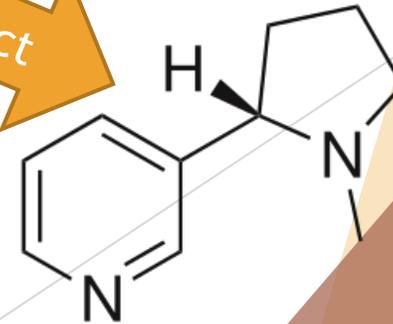
Research



Nicotine extraction from the leaf



Extract



Target: <0.1% nicotine

Cultural practices in the field

Choice of variety (GMO !?)

Plant population increase

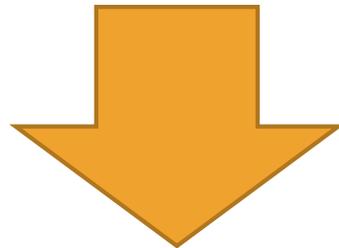
Modified topping or suckering

Leaf position - only low stalks

Modified stage of harvesting

Little if any applied nitrogen and inherently low fertility soils

Environment - fast ripening, with adequate rainfall



25-50% yield reduction

Target: <0.1% nicotine

Research

- ▶ Need to identify the very low nicotine varieties world wide → commercially viable cultivars will produce nicotine content above the proposed level
 - ▶ Variety development is a long process: 6-20 years
- ▶ The genetically modified (GM) route is likely the fastest method to lower nicotine levels in commercial tobacco varieties → regulatory concerns in many countries (EU, Turkey, Macedonia, India, Zimbabwe ...)

Target: <0.1% nicotine

Nicotine extraction from the leaf

- ▶ Nicotine can be extracted from dried tobacco with several petroleum solvents, which also remove important flavour compounds and may impart other negatives upon the extracted tobacco material
- ▶ In order to maximize nicotine extraction, tobacco is finely ground. The resulting particles are too small to manufacture cigarettes and therefore would need to first be transformed into a sheet type product

Production of ultra-low nicotine leaf

Impact on farmers

Modifying growing practices with current commercial tobacco varieties would:

- ▶ result in a significant economic hardship for the farmer
- ▶ make very difficult to produce tobacco with the desired nicotine content
- ▶ cause a significant decrease in crop yield
- ▶ cause a unit cost of production increase
- ▶ impact on leaf quality → lower price
- ▶ increase vulnerability to insect damage → higher need for pesticides
- ▶ depend on weather influence: a drier season penalizes growers further if low nicotine is a pre-requisite
- ▶ boost illicit trade: leaves with higher nicotine content will have only illicit markets



Production of ultra-low nicotine leaf GM tobacco → GM cigarettes



“... The basic techniques include, but are not limited to, those that are used in the production of genetically modified (“GM”) varieties of other crops, which are also known as “biotech crops. ...”

“... MAGIC 0 cigarettes yield only 0.04 mg nicotine;
95% less than conventional cigarettes ...”

MAGIC 2 cigarettes yield only 0.2 mg nicotine;
an 80% reduction compared to many conventional
brands. ...”

Production of ultra-low nicotine leaf

Cigarettes are smoked not eaten or chewed

Nicotine levels in tobacco smoke and in the re-dried tobacco content of a cigarette in two traditional type of cigarettes brands currently on the market.

	In smoke	In re-dried tobacco
	0.8 mg/cigarette	18.8 mg/g
	0.1 mg/cigarette	17.4 mg/g

With a (nearly) equal nicotine content of the re-dried tobacco stick in cigarettes (8% difference) the nicotine content in the emissions shows an 800% difference.

Impact of smoking reduced nicotine content cigarettes on sensitivity to cigarette price: further results from a multi-site clinical trial

ADDICTION

SSA SOCIETY FOR THE
STUDY OF
ADDICTION

- ▶ **Aims:** to assess the impact of a reduction in the nicotine content of cigarettes on estimated consumption of reduced nicotine cigarettes and usual brand cigarettes at a variety of hypothetical prices.
- ▶ **Design:** double blind study with 839 participants in 10 sites across the USA randomly assigned to receive cigarettes for 6 weeks, either usual brand or an investigational cigarette with one of five nicotine contents.
- ▶ **Comparator:** investigational cigarettes had 1 of 5 nicotine contents: 15.8 mg/g, 5.2 mg/g, 2.4 mg/g, 1.3, or 0.4 mg/g; control cigarettes were participants' usual brand.

Conclusions

in current smokers, a reduction in nicotine content may reduce cigarette consumption ... and increase cessation if reduced-nicotine content were the only cigarette available for purchase

Proposal on trade

- ▶ Exclude tobacco trade from international trade agreements
- ▶ If trade agreements are made to boost the economy of one country, this makes it impossible for countries to exploit their potential
- ▶ This discriminates tobacco against all other legal crops and products
- ▶ It creates a very difficult precedent for other important crops with negative image (sugar, palm oil, etc.)

Proposal on trade - What does it mean ?

- ▶ In the future many countries may impose such duties on the import of tobacco leaf from some origins that it will make it impossible for companies to import it
- ▶ The economy of countries and regions for which tobacco is an important crop will be seriously jeopardized

Proposal on trade - Main consequence

- ▶ If trade rules can be broken or dismissed, what sort of trade protection will tobacco have in the future?

Contacts with government

- ▶ According to the FCTC, tobacco farmers must be denied to speak with their Government, MPs and regulators to explain their concerns
- ▶ Any dialogue about tobacco is perceived as manipulation and interference with regulations
- ▶ Tobacco farmers risk to become citizens with no rights

COP7

- ▶ There was a discussion at national level on the country position for COP7 on these matters ?
- ▶ Do the Ministries of Agriculture and Trade discussed the draft guidelines on articles 9&10 (nicotine content) and the proposals to exclude tobacco from trade agreements ?
- ▶ Will there be someone in the national delegation to the FCTC COP7 meeting to represent farmers' views ?
- ▶ What is the message from the farmers to government ?

Дълъг живот на тютюн !



Благодаря ви много за вашето внимание